



## **The Honorable Chris Chocola**

Elected to Congress on November 5, 2002, Chris Chocola was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress on January 7, 2003, by Speaker of the House J. Dennis Hastert. He has been appointed by the Speaker to three committees: Agriculture, Small Business, and Transportation & Infrastructure.

Prior to being elected, Chris was a successful businessman and entrepreneur who understood that the most effective legislators were individuals who had real-life experiences before serving their communities and their nation publicly. As a citizen legislator, Chris believes his practical experience brings much-needed perspective to Washington.

A native Midwesterner, Chris grew up in Michigan, where he graduated in the top 10 of his class from Williamston High School in 1980. He graduated summa cum laude from Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Michigan, in 1984 with a double major in Business Administration and Political Economy. It was at Hillsdale that Chris met his wife, Sarah.

Chris was recruited for the management training program with Society National Bank (now KeyBank) in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1984, and was serving as a foreign exchange trader when he left to attend Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. Chris worked his way through law school as a credit manager for his family's business, Chocola Cleaning Materials, while attending classes at night.

Since graduating magna cum laude from law school in 1988, Chris had been with CTB International Corp. in Milford, Indiana. He initially managed all the legal aspects of the business as Corporate Counsel and held various management positions until he was ultimately named Chief Executive Officer in 1994.

Under his leadership, CTB more than doubled in size and made a successful transition from a family business to a publicly-held company that was traded on the NASDAQ. In April of 1999, Chris became Chairman of the Board. When Chris left CTB in late 2002 as he prepared for his public service in Congress, CTB's revenues exceeded \$250 million annually and employed approximately 1,300 people – selling products in over 100 countries. CTB is a leading manufacturer and marketer of products for the poultry, egg, swine, and grain production industries.

Chris and Sarah are both actively involved in the community. Chris is a member of Rotary, sits on the Board of Directors at both Oaklawn Psychiatric Center and WNIT-TV, and serves on the Council of Advisors at the South Bend Center for the Homeless. Sarah sits on the Board of Directors at the Boys & Girls Club in Goshen.

Chris and Sarah reside in Elkhart County, Indiana, where they are raising their two children, Caroline, 14, and Colin, 12. Caroline and Colin both attend local public schools.